

REMARKS

The Office Action of September 26, 2007, required restriction of the application under 35 U.S.C. § 121 to one of claims 1-24 (Group I) and claims 25-79 (Group II). Responsive to this restriction requirement, Applicants elect Group II, corresponding to claims 25-79. This election is made without traverse.

It is believed that all pending issues in the outstanding Office Action have been addressed by this paper. If there are any questions regarding this paper or the application generally, Applicants would appreciate a telephone call to the undersigned since this may expedite prosecution of the application.

The Office Action Summary indicates that the period for response expires three (3) months from the mailing date of the Office Action. Item 7 (page 4) of the Office Action, however, indicates that the period for response expires thirty (30) days from the Office Action mailing date. The undersigned called the Examiner regarding this discrepancy, and the Examiner indicated in a telephone message that he would not object to the filing of a response within the 3-month period for response, which extends through December 26, 2007. Accordingly, this paper—being filed on December 26, 2007—is believed to be timely. Nonetheless, please grant any extensions of time required to enter this paper and apply any required charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: December 26, 2007

/Frank A. Italiano/

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